

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2368

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO NIACT IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS CARACAS 4633

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, VE, DR

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT PEREZ GIVES NATIONWIDE SPEECH ON  
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC SITUATION

1. PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ MADE A NATIONWIDE RADIO AND TELEVISION ADDRESS TO THE NATION IN WHICH HE, TOGETHER WITH MAJOR VENEZUELAN LABOR, BUSINESS AND POLITICAL LEADERS REAFFIRMED THEIR SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRACY IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (DR) AND CALLED ON CIVIL AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES TO RESPECT THE POPULAR WILL AND THE ELECTORAL PROCESS. THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFEDERATION OF VENEZUELAN WORKERS (CTV), THE PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERATION OF VENEZUELAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (FEDECAMERAS), THE PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS AS WELL AS FORMER PRESIDENT ROMULO BETANCOURT ALL PRECEDED PRESIDENT PEREZ WITH SHORT SPEECHES. THE EVENT WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY THE FULL CABINET, ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF, RELIGIOUS LEADERS AND THE DEAN OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

2. ALL SPEAKERS EMPHASIZED THAT ALL SECTORS OF VENEZUELAN SOCIETY VIEWED WITH REGRET AND ALARM RECENT EFFORTS IN THE DR TO SUBVERT THE EXPRESSION OF THE POPULAR WILL AND  
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DEMOCRACY. OTHER POINTS MADE INCLUDED THE OBSERVATION THAT LATIN AMERICA AND THE US, AS WELL AS SOME EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS (UNNAMED), VIEWED WITH DISFAVOR THE INTERRUPTION OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS IN THE DR; THAT ALL VENEZUELA SUPPORTED PRESIDENT PEREZ IN HIS CONCERN AND ACTIONS IN VIEW OF THE CURRENT THREAT TO DEMOCRACY IN THE DR; AND THAT ALL VENEZUELAN WERE OPTOMISTIC THAT PRESI-

DENT BALAGUER, POLITICAL PARTIES THE DR ARMED FORCES AND OTHER SECTORS OF SOCIETY WOULD UPHOLD THE WILL OF THE DOMINICAN PEOPLE. EX-PRESIDENT BETANCOURT MADE A PARTICULAR EFFORT TO NOTE THE PARALLEL BETWEEN THE CURRENT ELECTORAL CRISIS IN THE DR AND THE ELECTORAL FRAUD WHICH USHERED IN THE PEREZ HIMENEZ DICTATORSHIP IN VENEZUELA IN 1952.

3. PEREZ SPOKE LAST, REITERATING THE SAME THEMES AND EMPHASIZED THE PRESENCE AND PARTICIPATION OF LEADERS FROM ALL SECTORS OF VENEZUELAN SOCIETY WAS INDICATIVE OF THE CONCERN FELT THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY OVER THE SITUATION IN THE DR. PEREZ REVIEWED RECENT EVENTS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND NOTED HIS SPEECH WAS PROMPTED BY THE FACT THAT EVENTS IN THE DR AFFECT THE POTENTIAL PEACE IN THE CARIBBEAN AND LATIN AMERICA. HE EMPHASIZED, THAT BY SPEAKING OUT, VENEZUELA WAS NOT COMMITTING AN INTERVENTIONIST ACT, AND CONCLUDED WITH A PERSONAL APPEAL TO THE CIVIL AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES TO RESPECT THE ELECTORAL PROCESS.

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